- Social Mobilization activities are being intensified by involving the local influencers, community and religious leaders to improve community participation and acceptance of polio vaccine.

Achievement of the development of Health Research

3470. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) what are the details of the research that has been undertaken/is being undertaken by the Department of Health Research;

(b) what have been the achievements of the department so far in the field of health research; and

(c) what measures Government proposes to take to further promote research in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques and also to take the benefits of such research to the common masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Department of Health Research was created within the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare only in September, 2007 and formally launched on 5.10.2007. As such no funds were available for the new Department during 2007-08 for undertaking research activities. The department is in formative stage. A blue print for creating structure of the department has been prepared to facilitate operationalization of new Department.

(c) In the area of diagnostics and therapeutics, the Department of Health Research proposes to initiate as Flagship programmes for example technology Development Translation project in drugs, diagnostics, vaccines, devices, health care projects; Health Technology Assessment and Management programme which would include horizon scanning for health technology, clearing house for health research technologies and opportunities for commercialization. Development of Diagnostics for viral Diseases and of predictive marker for diseases would be taken up as Mission-mode projects.

Public-Private Partnerships would be encouraged for developing the products and taking them to the community. The Department will also coordinate a joint initiative between ICMR and National Innovation Fund (NIF) which is under DST.

Cancellation of licenses of vaccine manufacturing PSUs

3471. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether production licenses of three vaccine manufacturing public sector units were cancelled and ordered to suspend production forthwith;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The licences of the

following three vaccine manufacturing Public Sector Units were cancelled and were ordered to suspend production, which were found not complying with Good Manufacturing Practices as provided under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules during inspection;

1. Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

2. Pasteur Institute of India (PII), Coonoor, Tamil Nadu.

3. BCG Lab Guindy, Chennai.

Improvement of district hospitals for heart surgery, etc.

3472. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether his Ministry will take steps to improve all the district headquarter hospitals to be fit for conducting heart surgery and kidney transplantation for the affected poor people; and

(b) whether his Ministry will help with financial assistance to all the taluk level hospitals for the cancer treatment of the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) National Rural Health Mission is now operational which is taking steps to improve health care delivery system including district hospitals. However, as Health is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to ensure the proper improvement and monitoring of the same. National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke has also been initiated in pilot phase in 9 districts of 9 States which would also supplement the efforts of State Governments in prevention and control of heart diseases. For kidney transplantation, there should be proper manpower and equipment in a hospital. Thereafter, registration of the hospital is necessary under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. Those district hospitals which may have such facilities may be considered by appropriate authority in the concerned State Government for registration for kidney transplantation. Poor patients may get financial assistance under National Illness Assistance Fund (Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi).

(d) As per the existing guidelines all the Government Medical College/Hospitals are entitled for grant in aid amounting to Rs. 3 crore for Development of Oncology Wing under the National Cancer Control Programme. The Ministry has recognized 27 Regional Cancer Centres in different parts of the country which are providing comprehensive cancer treatment facilities either free or highly subsidized rates to poor and needy cancer patients.

Autism cases in the country

3473. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 4 million people have been suffering from Autism in the country and cases of such people are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide proper treatment and facilities to the suffering children in the country; and